

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Church Council Meeting
August 24, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Doreen Alvarez (Church Council Chairman)	John Furtado	Skip Messenger	Donna Wallace
Scott Folsom	Mary Hilton	Jeanne Shrout	Holly Woods
	Gretchen Leppa	Rick Starck	Dana Hanson

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by Doreen.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: The recording secretary was not notified of any necessary corrections to the minutes of the June 22, 2015 meeting.

NURTURE

Education: Gretchen pointed out that we have several special needs children coming to GCUMC. In light of this, everyone needs to be aware that room 109 should not be used as a storage room with things just sitting around. These children become over-stimulated and things that are not locked up quickly disappear or are moved. She noted that we also have good, stable general education children who come and provide a balance and are role-models. It was mentioned that our “registration form” (used when new children start attending GCUMC) be reviewed for possibly including a reference to special needs or educational needs. Gretchen, Holly, and Donna have been cleaning up room 109 and organizing its closets. *(And it looks great!)*

Vacation Bible School: The following statistics were provided by Dana after the Council meeting: We had 33 children registered for VBS with attendance ranging from 14 to 22, plus 1 to 3 children in the nursery. The 33 figure includes 5 children who registered but never attended. There were 48 total volunteers, plus 8 individuals who assisted before VBS started but were unable to help during the program itself. The number who helped each evening ranged from 29 to 39. On the last night of VBS (August 5), several area schools were holding orientations which were attended by both participants and volunteers.

Doreen heard some really great reports on how the VBS program worked. The kids really seemed to enjoy visiting the marketplace where they learned about Nazareth when Jesus was a youth. In addition, the volunteers really “got into their parts” as residents and business owners of Nazareth. Jeanne reminded those who will be involved that when the Nazareth decorations are taken down, the PVC pipe that was used should be returned to the worship team closet.

Since all receipts for VBS expenditures have been turned in, including the amount received for Kids' Needs of Great Englewood, the final accounting can be made. Holly indicated she would get the information for the office regarding where to send the Kids' Needs donations.

Small Groups: John Furtado advised that Sandy Doty has scheduled another meeting for small group leaders for next Sunday. In addition, she has provided a book for all leaders to read.

Youth: Scott informed us of several things:

- Our older youth want to express their thanks to everyone for the great support they have received enabling them to attend the various camps and missions. They have decided to offer the congregation a car wash on Saturday, October 24, as a way to say "Thank you!"
- On the third Saturday of every month, the youth want to get together with youth from other area churches for an afternoon of games and fellowship. Their first get-together will be at GCUMC on September 19.
- See You At The Pole is coming up on Wednesday, September 23, with a kick-off rally the evening before. This student-led program meets early in the morning at each school's flagpole for prayer.
- Disney's Night of Joy is less than three weeks away. Eighteen youth, family, and chaperones have signed up to go. They will leave after school on Friday, September 11, and return on Sunday evening, September 13. Scott will conduct a short worship service on Sunday morning.
- Scott extended a *special thank you to Skip and Becky* for their assistance in helping our youth and chaperones get back from Miami when the church van's alternator went on the fritz a *second* time during their Key West trip. The company that installed the first, faulty alternator in Key West, refunded the money the church paid.

OUTREACH

Team Cuba: Jeanne advised that Team Cuba is having a meeting tomorrow, August 25. Some discussion items on the agenda include Rick and Linda's trip to Cuba in November; a short summary from Scott as to how his Cuba trip went and what Nicaro needs; and deciding on the next plea to the congregation for items to be sent to Cuba. Money is received every month for the Cuba program and the congregation still seems to be strongly behind it. The steps for purchasing a new church facility are coming along,

albeit very slowly. The possibility of purchasing the means by which to provide clean water for the Nicaro residents is on the horizon. A fundraiser is being planned: prayer bracelets will be made out of the olive wood which Rick and Linda brought back from Israel, and will be sold for (probably) \$10.

Family Fall Festival: It was pointed out that the Barn Sale and Crafts Sale are scheduled for Friday & Saturday, November 13-14; and the weekend after that is just before Thanksgiving. As a result, it was decided (pending approval by Dawn Tesauro) that the FFF would be held on Saturday, November 7, from 11am-2pm. Holly and Scott have been discussing what games and activities they would like to have at the FFF. Shirley Smith has already volunteered her small group to handle another pie eating contest. Ideally, the church's various groups will come up with, and be in charge of, the different games and activities.

One game proposed by Doreen involves a ring toss over cans of food. The congregation donates cans, and FFF visitors attempt to throw rings over the cans. If they succeed, they win the food. At the end of the fair, any food that is not won, or any food that individuals win but don't want, would be taken to Englewood Helping Hand. Two major concerns, however, involve where to store the food until the day of the FFF, and how to and who would haul it from storage to the outside. Doreen pointed out that rings could be made out of lids from plastic containers of all sizes, by cutting out the center of the lid.

Trunk or Treat: As with previous years, trunk or treat will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 6-7pm.

Dana will revise last year's flyers for the FFF and Trunk or Treat (and Thanksgiving) for distribution to Myakka Elementary and forward them to Holly, Scott, and the office for review.

Kairos Outside: John advised that Loretta Barche is on this advisory board. The church recently made a \$1,000 donation to this organization, which helps women who have a loved one in prison.

WITNESS

Worship: Donna advised that the Worship Design Team met yesterday. Plans are going well for the *Life's a Beach* theme in October. The worship budget has been turned in, but already needs to be slightly revised.

SUPPORT

2016 Budget: The 2016 budget must be finalized in full before our charge conference at Edgewater UMC on Sunday, November 1, at 3pm. Therefore, **all proposed program budgets need to be submitted to Dawn Tesauro and/or Finance before the next Finance meeting on Monday, September 21.** Finance will then have a week to address the budget before the next Council meeting on September 28. If it is determined at the Council meeting that further changes are needed, we will have a little over a month to finalize those changes. Both John (Finance Chairman) and Dawn should be consulted with questions regarding preparation of the 2016 budget.

John explained that for various reasons, the Boy Scouts program fell under Education for 2015. The Boy Scouts of America charter fee was \$650 last year, and John suggests that \$1,200 be included for 2016. John believes that at least \$650 of that amount will be supported by the Men's Club. It was opined that the line item for Boy Scouts should be moved from Education to Outreach. Finance will address that at its next meeting.

A few people indicated they would prefer to have more guidance when determining their program's budget.

John reiterated something that everybody should remember: Just because a certain amount is indicated on a program's budget, and that budget is ultimately approved, it does not mean that the money is actually there. If someone wants to purchase something that is in the budget and the total cost is less than \$100, they can make the purchase and turn the receipt in for reimbursement. If the total is more than \$100, Finance needs to be made aware of the purchase prior to the purchase being made. Emergency requests for funding can be made by email to John, without having to wait for Finance's next meeting.

Finance: John advised that \$6,000 was pulled from the Reserve Fund to pay July bills, and it is anticipated that another \$6,000 will be needed to pay August bills. On the good side, giving is about \$8,150 ahead of this same time last year, and most of the property tax bills is already set aside. The Reserve Fund balance is about \$22,340. Because we needed the \$1,500 to pay bills, no amount was added to the Facility Up Keep fund for June or July. The financial audit by Ron Caminiti was recently completed, and all of GCUMC's books were found to be in order.

Trustees: Skip reported on work that has been done by the Trustees (i.e., Skip):

- The portable decks have been pressure washed and sealed. The posts still need to be sealed, but the sealing must be followed by a 24-hour period of no rain. So it won't be done in the near future.
- GCUMC pays for electricity as a business (versus as a residence), and the major portion of our electric bill comes from the "demand charges." The FPL explanation of "demand" is at the end of these minutes. A review of our thermostats indicated that on Sunday morning, every air conditioning thermostat automatically lowers at 6:30am, creating a HUGE demand for kilowatts all at once. A similar occurrence happens for Sunday evening, and for Wednesday evenings. Skip has reprogrammed the A/C thermostats so that each starts after an appropriate interval of time. It is hoped that by staggering the times that the A/Cs are lowered, our kilowatt demand will be reduced and will result in a lesser bill.
- Although our A/C units cool the air, they do nothing for the humidity. But, if the humidity is lower, the temperature can be raised and yet people will feel cooler. Skip is going to check into installing two 70-quart dehumidifiers in the sanctuary area.
- There are two thermostats which are identified as "serving room," but only one operates in the serving room. The other actually controls a portion of the sanctuary.
- A lot of work has been done in the kitchen to *revitalize* the room. And it is looking great!
- Bids will be obtained to build an enclosure around the refrigerators so the hot air is pulled off the refrigeration units. This should make them run more efficiently.
- In the kitchen, turning on the exhaust fans forces the "bad" air out of the kitchen, but then pulls hot replacement air in from the outside.
- Bids are being obtained to put gutters on the portables. Right now when it rains, water runs off the roof, hits the deck, and splashes up onto the siding – which is causing the siding to rot. The framing is okay, but the siding is on its last legs.
- The portable decking is slick, and Skip is considering whether to put an anti-slip coating on it. Unfortunately, the pine needles cause extra slipperiness.
- A digital thermostat has been put into portable 201 which enables a more accurate reading when adjusting the temperature.
- Installing a small dehumidifier in each portable would get rid of all (or most) of the musty smell.
- A work order is in for the custodian to do some pressure washing on the eaves of the church.

Staff Parish: Rick reported that SPR's proposed 2016 budget is finished. All yearly interviews are completed, and all job descriptions have been updated. SPR is also updating the lay personnel and policy manual.

Nominations: Doreen noted that Rev. Bill has asked that those on the nominations committee review the results of the spiritual gifts survey. Of the 287 invitations sent out regarding the survey, about 90 individuals have taken the survey.

OLD BUSINESS

At Ease Veterans: Skip advised that the Port Charlotte American Legion seems to still have a problem communicating between the members and the management; Rotonda West American Legion does better. He believes two people attended at Rotonda, but thinks they were there to observe. There was a retired VA employee who saw the publicity in the newspaper and attended the meeting in Port Charlotte; his goal was to help veterans obtain the various benefits to which they are entitled. His contact information was passed on to the Rotonda American Legion.

Church Family Fun Nights: The line dancing in July and August were big hits! It was noted that several people on Facebook have indicated that they hope it will continue after they return from the north.

Creation Care Team: Conference is supposed to be providing support and guidance on this new ministry, but Doreen does not believe an individual has been appointed yet. Two individuals, Jim Choate and Dee Grafe, have notified Doreen that they are interested in joining the team. Doreen noted that even saving on electricity helps not only our bills, but also our environment.

NEW BUSINESS

Fair Trade Show: Doreen advised that Rev. Bill recently spoke to her about putting on a fair trade show for Christmas. One suggestion involves the company Trades of Hope. The company works with women from mostly third-world countries by purchasing their hand-made jewelry, decorations, and other items at their asking price and then re-selling the products here in the United States. Scott advised that the United Methodist Church globally supports the fair trade shows, and that Nancy Metz, the South West District Lay Leader, is big into Trades of Hope. Since there is already so much going on in November, it was felt that perhaps the first introduction of any such endeavor would be best at the January 22-23, 2016, Arts & Crafts Show.

ADJOURNING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm with a prayer by Doreen. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary

Copied from <https://www.fpl.com/rates/understand-demand.html>:

What is [Electrical] Demand?

Demand is a term to describe how much electricity is used at any given moment. Most businesses have a **meter that tracks and records the highest 30-minute level of electricity demand** for each billing period. Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW), while the total amount of electricity used is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

Let's compare electricity use between two customers, as an example. Both customers use the same amount of kilowatt hours (kWh) - 20,000 kWh - over the course of a month. The first customer uses a steady amount of electricity over the 30-day period while the second customer uses much of the 20,000 kWh in bursts over a few hours per day or a few days of the month. Although both customers used the same amount of electricity, the second customer would be charged more for placing greater demand on the system during the short periods of time when their electrical use peaked.

Here's another way to think of demand. Imagine that every business in your area receives water through a standard one-inch pipe, and that for most of the businesses in your area, this is sufficient. But you have particular needs that require, on occasion, more water than is possible to deliver through the one-inch pipe. To meet these peaks in your water requirements, the water company must install equipment (larger main lines, a larger service pipe, etc.) to get more water to you. The added costs of this equipment are covered by a "demand" charge when you use more water than can be delivered through the one-inch pipe.

Why does FPL charge for demand?

If your business requires large peaks of electricity, FPL must be able to supply the electricity and have the infrastructure in place to deliver it to you. To supply the increased electricity, we must build power plants and add equipment to our distribution and transformer networks to meet your needs. These additional costs are passed onto users with large peaks in demand in the form of demand charges.